U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY www.cma.army.mil

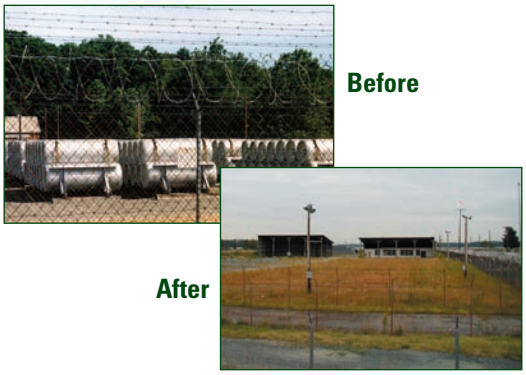
CMA NEWS March 2007

CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

- Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala., recently delivered the last VX-filled M55 rocket to the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. Anniston Chemical Activity employees made 1,209 trips to safely move all VX-filled rockets to the disposal facility (see article on page 2).
- Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah, recently received approval from the Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste and Department of Air Quality to increase the feed to the Liquid Incinerator. This increase, from 50 percent to 75 percent, was demonstrated during the trial burn.
- Newport Chemical Depot, Ind., has safely eliminated more than 44 percent of its nerve agent VX stockpile since beginning disposal operations May 2005.
- Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark., recently participated in the annual Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program training exercise. The exercise involved participants from on-post and off-post communities and evaluated their response capabilities in the unlikely event of a chemical weapons accident.
- Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore., has safely processed more than 34 percent of its sarin projectile stockpile since starting operations September 2006.
- Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project has completed the demolition of the former chemical weapon production facilities at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark., and Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.

CMA MEETS REQUIREMENTS FOR ABERDEEN FACILITY CLOSURE

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) has announced the completion of all requirements to close the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ABCDF). The command neutralized 1,623 tons of mustard agent, decontaminated and disposed of the steel containers used to hold the agent and demolished buildings used during the disposal process.



The Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility stockpile storage yard once housed more than 1,800 ton containers filled with mustard agent. Today, the storage yard is empty.

"This marks a significant achievement in the global chemical weapons disarmament effort. ABCDF is the first chemical weapons disposal facility in the continental U.S. to destroy its stockpile and decontaminate and demolish its plant," said Dale Ormond, CMA acting director. "It is a model for all the other facilities that will follow suit."

The site has fewer buildings, since two structures dedicated to agent destruction activities— the ton container cleanout facility and process neutralization building— were demolished. Auxiliary buildings, such as the medical infirmary and administrative trailers, have also been removed. In addition, all waste generated from closure has been decontaminated and disposed.

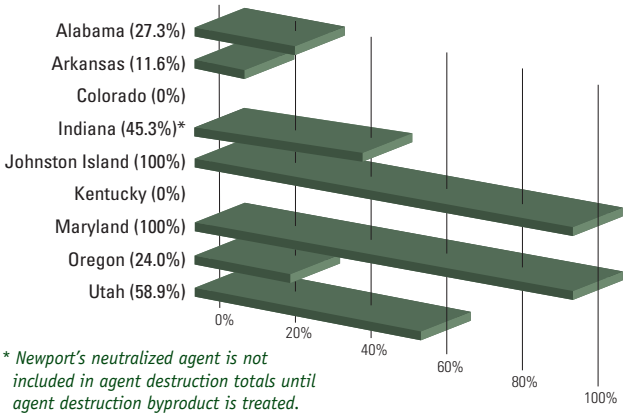
"Safety has always been the cornerstone of our project. We built, operated and now closed this facility with safety as the first priority. The fact that our safety record during closure is on par with banking institutions is testament to this," said Brian O'Donnell, ABCDF site project manager.

Closure of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit issued by the state of Maryland will take an additional few months before full closure will be achieved. RCRA governs the construction, operation and closure of hazardous waste storage, treatment and disposal facilities. Since ABCDF is located on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., its property and structures will remain under Army control after closure. Some of the equipment at ABCDF may be used at another CMA or government facility. The site will be reused by APG.

ABDCF is the second chemical demilitarization facility to close. Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System completed closure operations in November 2000.

CMA - CREATING A SAFER TOMORROW

40.7 PERCENT OF U.S. CHEMICAL AGENT STOCKPILE DESTROYED
(as of March 18 measured by original agent tonnage since entry into force – 29 April 1997)



** Newport's neutralized agent is not included in agent destruction totals until agent destruction byproduct is treated.*

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CMA EXPECTS TO MEET YEAR-END TREATY GOAL

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) is on schedule to meet its Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) 45 percent destruction milestone by December 31, 2007. As of early March 2007, chemical weapons disposal sites in Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana and Utah had destroyed 40 percent of the weapons; leaving only 5 percent to go by the end of the year. Chemical weapons destroyed at former disposal sites at Johnston Atoll in the South Pacific and at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., also count toward the goal.

UMATILLA CHEMICAL MUNITIONS DISPOSAL FACILITY PASSES 50 PERCENT DESTRUCTION MILESTONE

Workers at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) have safely destroyed slightly more than half of the total number of chemical munitions originally stored at the site. Those munitions contained approximately 24 percent of the original chemical agent tonnage stored at the facility. The disposal plant surpassed the 50 percent munitions destroyed milestone during the 155mm GB (sarin) projectile campaign. Since operations began September 2004, the plant has destroyed more than 111,000 chemical munitions.

Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility staff work with an on-site container of 155mm GB projectiles in the facility's Container Handling Building. While recently processing projectiles, the UMCDF passed the 50 percent mark in the number of items destroyed with the 110,300th munition.

"The community and environment are just that much safer with each munition we remove from storage and destroy," said Depot Commander Lt. Col. Donna Rutten. "We look forward to eventual elimination of the last munition in the Umatilla stockpile."

"Safely reaching this milestone is a significant accomplishment by our workers," said Don Barclay, UMCDF site project manager. "We will strive to maintain that high degree of safety during the rest of the project."

When the UMCDF completes the 155mm GB projectile campaign planned for this summer, all the GB-filled munitions originally stored at the depot will have been destroyed. After that, the facility will prepare for a series of VX nerve agent munitions disposal campaigns, beginning with M55 VX rockets. After destruction of all VX munitions, the depot will dispose of mustard agent stored in bulk containers. Since the start of operations, the plant has processed 91,442 M55 GB rockets, 2,445 GB bombs and 14,246 8-inch diameter GB projectiles. It has destroyed several thousand 155mm GB projectiles since that campaign began in January 2007.

LAST ROCKET SAFELY PROCESSED AT ANNISTON

The last chemical agent-filled M55 rocket stored by the Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA) has been safely moved to the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) and demilitarized.

ANCA employees moved the last several pallets from storage igloos in the depot's Chemical Limited Area earlier this month.

At one time, the ANCA chemical stockpile included 42,762 GB-filled rockets as well as 35,662 VX-filled rockets. All GB munitions were safely disposed of between August 2003 and March 2006. VX-filled rocket demilitarization operations began last July.

"The completion of the VX rocket munitions is a significant milestone in the elimination of ANCA's chemical stockpile. The risk to the community has been greatly diminished through the efforts of our work force. We will continue to safely store and destroy the stockpile while ensuring the utmost protection for our work force and the community," said Lt. Col. Phillip M. Trued, Jr., ANCA commander.

The last VX-filled M55 rocket is handled safely by Danielle Nelson and Thaddeus Moore in the Unpack Area at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. Workers are now preparing for the receipt and handling of VX-filled 155mm projectiles. That campaign should begin this summer.

Timothy K. Garrett, ANCDF site project manager, said, "Our workers are safely doing a very important job. Working in an industrial setting, under conditions that include explosives and chemical warfare materiel, they have reduced the size of the Anniston stockpile by 27 percent. That equates to a risk reduction of some 97 percent. Their accomplishments are truly commendable."

Altogether, 178,090 chemical munitions and 137,302 gallons of liquid GB and VX have been demilitarized at ANCDF.

CMA News is produced by the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency Communications Office.
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